AN

ACCOUNT

OF THE

ARRAIGNMENT,

TRYAL, and CONDEMNATION

OF

Jonathan Froſt

THE

CLIPPER:

Upon *June* the 17th inſtant, at the MARSHELSEY in *Southwark*.

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AN ACCOUNT OF THE ARRAIGNMENT TRYAL, and CONDEMNATION, Of *Jonathan Froſt* the CLIPPER.

UPon Thurſday 17 of *July* inſtant, at the *Marſhalſey* in *Southwark*, by a ſpecial Commiſſion of *Oyer and Terminer*, was held a Court for the Trial of one Mr. *Froſt*, a perſon Committed for Clipping of Money; for which Crime he was now Arraigned and Indicted, together with one *William Griffin*, (Servant to the ſaid *Froſt*) before ſeveral of the Honourable

rable Judges of the Courts at *Westm.* and the Recorder of *London* named in the said Commission, to sit as Judges for the Trial of the said Prisoners.

This Mr *Frost*, it seems, at the time of his being taken, which was in *July* last, lived at *Rotherith* in *Surrey* a House-keeper there; and about the same time kept one *Wheat* as his servant: which *Wheat* (as is reported) being formerly a Prisoner in the *Kings-Bench*, and not being able to discharge himself from thence, was by the said *Frost* kindely and Charitably Redeemed from his Engagement, set at Liberty, and afterwards taken into his Service, where he continued till such time as for his leud practices the said *Frost* dismist him. After which, the said *Wheat* being taken somewhere in *Southwark*, upon suspition of the same Crime of Clipping of Money, was for the same Arraigned at the last Assizes held for the County of *Surrey:* But upon his then proffering to Impeach the said Mr. *Frost*, his Tryal was then respited for some time, and he kept to prosecute against him. And the same *Wheat* was the chief Witness that came in against him upon his Tryal.

Mr. *Frost* having lain neer a Twelvemonth in the *Marshalsey*-prison, for want of Air and Exercise began to grow very sick and infirm, being taken with great Swellings in his Limbs, in so much as they could not get Irons to come upon him: and

and continuing so ill, as was feared he could not live till the Summer Assizes; It is said, that he presuming upon his own Innocence, did endeavour by his Friends, to have this special Court appointed for his Tryal, whereby he might have opportunity to clear himself of the Crime he was accused of before he died, although at last it fell out contrary to his pretences and expectation. 426

At his Tryal, which began about three or four of the clock in the afternoon of the aforesaid 17th day of *June* instant, after the Commission read and Jury called and Sworn, the said *Frost* being brough to the Bar, as it appeared, in a very low and weak condition, was arraigned for Treasonably Clipping and defacing of several pieces of English Coyn upon the 4th day of *August* last, &c. to which he pleaded Not Guilty.

The other person, *William Griffin*, who came in upon Bail, was likewise Indicted for the like offence, who also pleaded Not Guilty; and both put themselves upon their Country. The principal Evidence that came in against *Frost* was the aforesaid *Wheat*, who swore directly against him, that upon the day laid in the Indictment, he did see the aforesaid *Jonathan Frost* in the Fact, Clipping of Money; which although he was but a single Witness to prove the Fact, yet several other Witnesses came in to prove other circumstances relating to it, as the frequent uttering of several parcels of clipt

Money,

Money by the ſaid *Froſt* at ſeveral times to them; as alſo his offering to ſell ſeveral pieces of Silver which had been melted down, and which were alleadged as probable circumſtances to make the ſaid *Froſt* guilty of the Clipping. And for *Will. Griffin*, it was alleadged againſt him, that while he was ſervant to *Froſt*, he had offered to ſell ſome of the aforeſaid melted pieces of Silver: which the ſaid *Froſt* replied, was done by his order, and that the Silver ſo melted down, were ſome pieces of Spaniſh Coin which he had by him, and no otherwiſe.

After the Evidence againſt the Priſoners had been called and heard, the witneſſes on their part were produced, and ſeveral did teſtifie their knowledge of the ſaid *Froſt*: As for *Froſt* himſelf, his Spirits being weak through ſickneſs, he ſpake but little; but in effect did utterly deny the Fact charged upon him, and did except to the Evidence of the aforeſaid *Wheate*, as a perſon of a very ill fame and life, and malicious; and did call ſome witneſſes to prove that the ſaid *Wheate* during the time he was in Priſon, ſhould ſay, that he muſt get him (meaning the ſaid *Froſt*) hanged, or elſe he ſhould be hanged himſelf, or ſomething to that purpoſe. Many other circumſtances on both ſides were given in evidence, which would be too tedious to enumerate. But in concluſion, the whole matter being left to the Jury, they went together, and after about an hours debate upon the Evi-

Evidence, they brought in their Verdict, and thereby found the aforesaid *William Griffin* not guilty; who was thereupon that night discharged: but found the said *Frost* guilty of the Treason whereof he was indicted; who thereupon, after a grave exhortation made to him by the Judge who past the Sentence, had Judgement past upon him *To be carried back to Prison, and thence to be drawn upon an Hurdle to the place of Execution, and there to be hanged by the Neck till he were dead*; which Sentence being given, the Prisoner was carried back to Prison, and the Court broke up about 9 of the clock.

Jonathan Frost was committed to Prison about half a year since or more, and could not be tried the last Assizes past, but was forced to sue out a Commission of *Oyer* and *Terminer* at his own charge, and was thereby accordingly tried on Thursday the 10 day of *June* 75. at which time, and before the Judges, there was a Bill found against *Frost* and his man *William Griffith*; but the Court was adjourned to Thursday following, the 17 day of *June* 75. at which time, *Frost*, by the Evidence of one *John Wheate* now a Prisoner in custody on the same accompt (and several others) about 16 witnesses or more, was Arraigned, and Condemned to be drawn and hanged: but he hath got leave of the Court for three weeks time before Execution, with intent to get a Pardon if he can.

William

William Griffith, who was *Frost's* man, was cleared and discharged out of Prison the same day 17 of *June* 75. only kneeling on his knees to the Judges.

Wheate is yet in custody, and must stay there for another Trial.

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